FOI REF: 26/775

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust

20th November 2026

Eastbourne District General Hospital
Kings Drive
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 2UD

Tel: 0300 131 4500
Website: www.esht.nhs.uk

Further to your recent request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000, I now set out our answers to your specific questions, and any clarifications sought and provided, as follows:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following for each financial year 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26:

1. **The trust's total spending on agency doctors (medical and dental locums supplied through agencies or framework providers).**

Year of Start Date	Total Spend
2023/24	£4,150,540.47
2024/25	£3,689,576.62
2025/26	£2,244,247.65

2. **The highest hourly rate the trust paid for an agency doctor in each year, with the specialty and grade (for example consultant, specialty doctor, registrar) for that shift.**

Year of Start Date Time	WorkerGrade	Specialty	Total Hourly Charge
2023/24	Consultant	Anaesthesia	£150.00
2024/25	Consultant	Emergency Medicine	£142.56
2025/26	Consultant	Respiratory Medicine	£121.19

3. **The highest total cost of a single agency doctor shift in each year, with the specialty, grade and length of the shift.**

Year of Start Date Time	WorkerGrade	Specialty	Hours Booked	Booking Value
2023/24	Consultant	Cardiology	24	£2,880
2024/25	Consultant	Cardiology	24	£2,880
2025/26	Consultant	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	24	£2,674

4. **The number of agency doctor shifts paid above the NHS England agency price cap in each year, if recorded.**

Year of Start Date Time	Number of Shifts
2023/24	5,775
2024/25	4,492
2025/26	2,804

5. **The five highest hourly rates paid for agency doctors in 2025-26, each with the specialty and grade.**

Year of Start Date Time	Rank	Worker Grade	Specialty	Total Hourly Charge
2025/26	1	Consultant	Respiratory Medicine	£121.19
2025/26	2	Consultant	Acute Internal Medicine	£120.55
2025/26	3	Consultant	Emergency Medicine	£120.55
2025/26	4	Consultant	Anaesthesia	£119.99
2025/26	5	Consultant	ENT	£119.99

I trust this information is helpful in its detail or explanation however, if you are dissatisfied with the response, then you have the right to request an internal review. If you wish to seek an internal review, please write to the Freedom of Information Team at esh-tr.foi@nhs.net quoting the above FOI reference number, within 40 working days. Please note the Trust is not obliged to accept a request for an internal review after this time period.

Yours faithfully

Freedom of Information (FOI) Team
East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust
0300 131 4716
Core Hours of Business: Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.00pm